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IC 75-2574  
30 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community  
THROUGH: Chief, Product Review Division *AB*  
SUBJECT: Highlights of and Follow up to the NSCIC Working  
Group Meeting, 22 October 1975

1. Ambassador Ellsworth urged that in the future the minutes of these meetings be made to serve as an "outboard motor" for the Group. They should include a status report on Working Group projects, texts of briefings given to the Group, and copies of papers mentioned in the discussions.

Follow up: An outline of the NIO/ME presentation, the OPR paper on China, DIA/DE memo on Soviet support for wars of liberation, articles in Studies in Intelligency by Kent and [REDACTED] and the OPR handbook on Bayesian analysis were assembled for Ober to disseminate with the minutes (DIA was late in sending its copies to NSC staff, but that is not our problem). 25X1A9a

2. Among the NSCIC Working Group's comments on the NIO/ME presentation, three seem noteworthy:

a. Ambassador Ellsworth: I don't mind getting a lot of "inputs" on the Middle East during a time of crisis, but I would like them "sorted out" better than they are; as far as possible reports ought to be related to previous ones in the same series, and there should be some kind of Community "overview" on a weekly or biweekly basis at such critical times.

b. General Scowcroft: The Alert Memorandum is an excellent art form for telling the consumer about a crisis in the Middle East (or elsewhere), but there should be some update issued when the crisis has eased or its character has changed significantly.

c. Mr. Morell: The Community's output on the economic aspects of the Middle East, in the forms of the "International Oil" publication, inputs to NSSMs,

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and special studies, has been quite good, but more talent (in DOD, State, and Treasury) ought to be brought into the preparation of some of these studies.

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(NIO/E) about C.

Follow up: None for us. The NIO has gotten the feedback directly.

Following up on a. (above) at your request

3. The Chairman handed out new draft Terms of Reference for the NSCIC Working Group, but cautioned that "we should not go final" on these until NSCIC's charter is firmed up, which should take place in a month.

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Follow up: The main difference between your draft and the new draft is that the latter omits the fourth Function of the NSCIC Working Group: "Serve as a forum for consumers to express generic needs and comments on services provided by intelligence." Ober feels it is redundant because it is specified in the statement of Mission. We should go along with Ober on this. (See new draft TRs, attached.)

4. As we expected, Mr. Ober's status report on the Consumer Evaluation Panel surfaced differences of view between DOD and the NSC Staff. The former wishes something far more comprehensive than Ober proposes, whereas the latter insists that the project be of "manageable" proportions. DOD is to provide Ober with a status report/outline of the project it has in mind.

Follow up: I will get copies of these competing proposals as soon as they become available. We should not take sides in this dispute, especially in view of General Scowcroft's apparent neutrality to the two proposals.

5. As per the agenda, we received suggestions for distribution of the Guide paper.

Follow up: Major Anselmo and I obtained a more detailed breakdown afterwards from State and DOD, prepared the necessary covering memoranda, and sent the copies off. The USIB Secretariat made distribution to the rest of the Community. Altogether about 760 of the 800 printed copies have been distributed. Comments on the paper itself will come directly to C/PRD, as per the instructions on the title page of the Guide. [redacted] asked me to provide some additional names/numbers from the production offices in CIA and I promised to do so.

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6. During the discussion of old/new business, in addition to the items you mentioned, General Scowcroft referred to PFIAB's having taken exception to NIE 11-3/8 and proposed that such estimates be done by "competing teams." Ambassador Ellsworth stated in no uncertain

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terms that he does not favor such an approach. Also, Mr. Morell remarked that "General Wilson has spent a good deal of effort educating us; now it is high time for us to do some soul-searching."

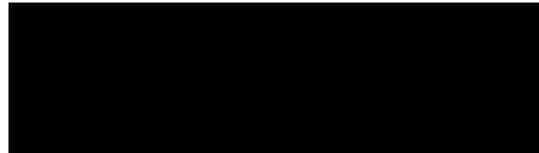
Follow up: We will pay close attention to other consumer reactions to 11-3/8 when it is finally published. Mr. Morell's remark suggests that we perhaps should not volunteer any more substantive briefings, but wait until General Scowcroft requests them.

7. No date was set for the next meeting.

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Follow up: [REDACTED] says that Ober will try to schedule one around the second week in December.

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Attachment

Distribution:

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1 - IC Registry (w/att.)

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Added item: Ellsworth and you agreed that there should be an annotated bibliography of major NIO papers.

Followup: I confirmed the details of this agreement with Cordesman, relayed it to [REDACTED] and extracted a promise that the first edition would appear before the end of the year as a USIB document. 25X1A9a

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